

September 10, 2015
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Vice Chairman Jason Bond:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 8, 2014”,

Members:	Jason Bond
	Dan Gitler
	Jim Gorman
	Sean Johnson
	Frank Ryan (absent)

Liaison	Sean Kaplan (absent)
Secretary	Linda Chismar

Vice Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there were no public comments, Vice Chairman Bond closed the Public Portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve the June 11, 2015 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Bond made a motion to approve the June, 2015, July, 2015, and August, 2015 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Communications

1. 540 Cook Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree in the front of this house to see if it is dead. **REPORTED REMOVE 2 MAPLES ASAP**
2. 61 Greenbrook Road – Mr. Gitler will look at the two trees in the front of this property that need to be removed or pruned. **ADVISED REMOVE SMALL MAPLE AND TRIM LOW BRANCHES OF SILVER MAPLE**
3. 419 D Street – Commission agreed that a minimal prune will be done.
4. 310 Shepherd Avenue – Commission agreed that this tree should be removed.
5. 431 Melrose Avenue – The neighbors removed the branch from the property overhanging on 433 Melrose Avenue.
6. Corner of Ann Street & Vogel – Mr. Gitler will look to see if the tree needs to be trimmed. **ADVISED NO TRIMMING NEEDED AT THIS TIME**
7. 809 Beechwood Avenue – Commission recommends that the oak tree should have a dead wood prune.

8. 112 Giles Avenue – Mr. Bond and Mr. Gitler will look at the tree at this location is half dead. **ADVISED PRUNE OUT DEAD WOOD**
9. 233 Giles Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree to see if it needs to be trimmed or removed. **ADVISED NOTHING NEEDED**
10. 52 Glen Gary Road – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond will look at the tree in the back of Ms. Biondi's house that is dying. **ADVISED REMOVAL NEEDED**
11. 151 Lee Drive – Mr. Gorman and Mr. Gitler will check on the property that has branches hanging over her house. **ADVISED TRIM TREES ALONG THE LEFT SIDE OF PROPERTY AND TRIM BRANCH HANGING OVER HOUSE AND ANY DEAD WOOD ALONG THAT SIDE**
12. 639 Cook Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look to see if a safety prune is needed and should have the removal of the branch extending over her house. **ADVISED NOTHING NEEDED**
13. 540 Cook Avenue – Mr. Johnson would look at the tree in front of this property that was reported dead. **ADVISED REMOVE 2 MAPLES ASAP**
14. 300 Beechwood Avenue – Shade Tree felt that the tree on the Dorn Avenue side of the property is okay.
15. 220 Green Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the dead branches in the tree in front of the house with the big hole in the bark.
16. 305 E Street – Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bond will look at the 2 oak trees in front of her property which are residents feel are diseased.
17. 318 Beechwood Avenue – Mr. Bond reported that there is a dead maple on the front of the property. Linda will have DPW measure to confirm that it is a borough shade tree. **(Not a Borough Tree)**

Work Agenda

1. 511 Chestnut Street - Mr. Bond reported that the tree on this property is not dead. Mr. Gorman will go out to look at the tree also.
2. Presbyterian Church (Side) – The Commission requested that the DPW remove the newly planted tree on the side of the church.
3. 602 Seneca Avenue – Unable to find this property and Secretary will review her notes. **ADVISED THAT DEAD TREE SHOULD BE REMOVED ASAP**
4. 312 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in the front of this property that resident would like removed.
5. 99 Rock Lane – Mr. Bond would like to follow up on the health of this tree in the fall.
6. 332 Edgeworth Street – Commission recommended that the tree be crown cleaned.
7. 300 Raritan Avenue – Mr. Bond and Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the tree to see if anything it needed at this time.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – Commission discussed amending this ordinance to amend the fines when removing a borough tree without permission. Commission recommended that the secretary prepare a memo for the mayor and council with the recommendation of the Shade Tree Commission to amend Chapter 395-8 and impose a fine with a maximum of \$900.00. These funds (fines) would be put in the Shade Tree Fund and designated for commission use for tree replacement. Also, the Code Enforcer would be the enforcement officer

to issue these fines. She would be notified of these addresses by the Shade Tree Commissioners.

- (B) Update on Door Knob Hangers – Mr. Gitler will go to FST and prepare a template for the door knob hangers. He will contact Linda to process the voucher to purchase these hangers so that they are ready for fall planting.

New Business

- (A) Request by Ms. Hartje to have planting done at Hazelwood School – Commission agreed to have Linda contact Hazelwood Principal and Mr. Mulvey to request that 1 – 2 trees be planted in front of the school to the left side of the entrance of the driveway and 3 – 4 trees on the right side of the parking lot.
- (B) Removal of 3 Maple Trees on right side of 254 Raritan Avenue, Pruning of maple in front of 112 Walnut Avenue and the Maple Tree close to Raritan Avenue – This work was completed over the summer.

Mr. Bond moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2015 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

